

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE 0139

S E C R E T STATE 091110

NODIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT USUN NEW YORK 01326 ACITION SECSTATE APRIL 8.

QUOTE: S E C R E T USUN NEW YORK 01326

NODIS

DEPT PASS MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OGEN, PORG

SUBJ: STATUS OF UNDER SECRETARY GENERAL SHEVCHENKO

REF: STATE 091016

1. IN ACCORDANCE WITH INSTRUCTIONS REFTTEL, AMBASSADOR LEONARD AND POLCOUNS CALLED ON SOVIET PERMREP TROYANOVSKY AT THE SOVIET MISSION AT 11:15 A.M. APRIL 8. ALSO PRESENT ON THE SOVIET SIDE WERE MINISTER DROZDOV AND SENIOR COUNSELOR SMIRNOV. THE ENTIRE CALL, WHICH TOOK PLACE IN A RECEPTION ROOM OFF THE MAIN FOYER OF
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THE MISSION, TOOK APPROXIMATELY TEN MINUTES.

2. LEONARD OPENED THE CONVERSATION IMMEDIATELY AFTER BEING SEATED BY INFORMING TROYANOVSKY THAT HE HAD RECEIVED A TELEPHONE CALL LATE IN THE EVENING OF APRIL 7 FROM FERDINAND MAYRHOFFER-GRUNBUHEL, SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE SECRETARY GENERAL. MAYRHOFFER HAD INFORMED LEONARD THAT A SHORT TIME PREVIOUSLY HE HAD RECEIVED A CALL FROM

SHEVCHENKO, WHO HAD READ CERTAIN PASSAGES FROM A LETTER SHEVCHENKO WAS ADDRESSING TO TROYANOVSKY. LEONARD TOLD TROYANOVSKY THAT THE KEY PASSAGE SHEVCHENKO HAD READ TO MAYRHOFFER INDICATED THAT SHEVCHENKO WAS NOT GOING TO RETURN TO MOSCOW AS HE APPARENTLY HAD PLANNED. LEONARD SAID HE HAD DISCUSSED THE MATTER BRIEFLY WITH MAYRHOFFER, BUT THAT WAS THE SUM OF THE INFORMATION HE HAD RECEIVED FROM MAYRHOFFER.

3. TROYANOVSKY ASKED IF ANY TRACE OF SHEVCHENKO HAD BEEN FOUND BY U.S. AUTHORITIES. LEONARD SAID HE HAD NO FURTHER INFORMATION. TROYANOVSKY THEN SPOKE AT SOME LENGTH. HE SAID THAT, IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES, HE WOULD HAVE TO LODGE A STIFF PROTEST WITH THE UNITED STATES. HE FOUND IT INCREDIBLE THAT THE U.S. STILL DID NOT KNOW WHERE SHEVCHENKO IS. HE SAID HE COULD ONLY CONCLUDE THAT SHEVCHENKO IS BEING HELD BY U.S. AUTHORITIES UNDER DURESS. HE INSISTED ON AN IMMEDIATE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET WITH SHEVCHENKO. TROYANOVSKY SAID IT WOULD BE TOO NAIVE TO BELIEVE THAT, AFTER THE CONTACT FROM MAYRHOFFER AND AFTER MAYRHOFFER HAD BEEN IN TOUCH WITH MRS. SHEVCHENKO, THE U.S. STILL DOES NOT KNOW WHERE SHEVCHENKO IS. HE REPEATED THAT THEY COULD ONLY CONCLUDE FROM THESE CIRCUMSTANCES THAT SHEVCHENKO IS UNDER DURESS AND THAT U.S. "SPECIAL SERVICES" ARE INVOLVED.

4. TROYANOVSKY SAID THE U.S. MUST GIVE SERIOUS CONSIDERATION TO THE DAMAGE TO U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS THAT WILL BE CAUSED BY ITS ACTIONS IN THIS INCIDENT. THERE WILL BE THE MOST DIRE CONSEQUENCES
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OF HIDING SHEVCHENKO FROM THE SOVIETS FOR WHAT IS NOW AMOUNTING TO THREE OR FOUR DAYS AND NOT GIVING SOVIET AUTHORITIES THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE IN TOUCH WITH SHEVCHENKO. TROYANOVSKY AGAIN INSISTED ON AN OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK WITH SHEVCHENKO AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE TIME. HE SPECULATED THAT THE U.S. "SPECIAL SERVICES" MAY HAVE BEEN ABLE TO EXPLOIT "CERTAIN WEAKNESSES" IN SHEVCHENKO'S CHARACTER, BUT HE WAS SURE THAT IF THEY COULD TALK WITH SHEVCHENKO HE WOULD DECIDE TO RETURN TO MOSCOW. TROYANOVSKY ASKED LEONARD WHETHER HE HAD PASSED TO THE DEPARTMENT THE CONTENTS OF THE MAYRHOFFER TELEPHONE CONVERSATION,

AND LEONARD SAID THAT HE HAD. TROYANOVSKY ASKED IF THERE WERE ANYTHING ELSE LEONARD COULD ADD; LEONARD SAID THERE WAS NOTHING.

5. TROYANOVSKY THEN BEGAN TO DRAW THE CONVERSATION TO AND END BY SAYING THEY WOULD HAVE TO GET IN TOUCH WITH AMBASSADOR DOBRYNIN IN WASHINGTON. HE REPEATED AGAIN THE REQUEST FOR AN OPPORTUNITY TO TALK WITH SHEVCHENKO. HE SAID THE SOONER THE BETTER -- THE LONGER SHEVCHENKO IS HELD AGAINST HIS WILL THE GREATER THE EFFECT ON THE SOVIET UNION'S RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES. HE WARNED AGAIN THAT THE CONSEQUENCES OF THIS INCIDENT FOR THE RELATIONSHIP WOULD BE DIRE. HE URGED THAT, FOR THE SAKE OF THE RELATIONSHIP, THE BEST OUTCOME WOULD BE FOR THE SOVIETS TO SPEAK WITH SHEVCHENKO AND

FOR HIM TO DECIDE TO RETURN TO MOSCOW. LEONARD UNQUOTE VANCE

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